

Hello,

We, members of an environmental-politics group at Avon High School, would like this testimony to be read on our behalf at tomorrow's 10 am Energy and Technology Committee hearing about HB 5002: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annika Mathias, Alex Kawa, Neel Srinath, Jonathan Sides, Julius Shieh, Sofie Fischler, Rachel Fischler, Allison Rinehart

"Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. We are a coalition of students from Avon High School who are dedicated to promoting the policy of the Green New Deal. Our group is just one of the many high school chapters across the nation working with Sunrise Movement and iMatter to generate awareness and support for this innovative, ambitious, and exciting movement. We will be speaking today in favor of HB 5002: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL.

In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report saying the world has only until 2030 to limit devastating climate change and avoid unprecedented environmental disaster. The report states that every bit of warming matters, so even a fraction of a degree less will save lives and greatly benefit the world's economies. Our world has already experienced intense storms, unprecedented flooding and persistent wildfires attributed to climate change, and further human inaction will lead to even worse catastrophes. If we do not respond to climate change properly, our economy and environment will crumble, and human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure will be put at great risk. In order to properly address this climate crisis, we need a national mobilization of a scope and scale in order to address inequities caused and intensified by the fossil fuel economy. Connecticut can and should be a leading state in such mobilization.

Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) released, on February 7, 2019, a Resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal. Green New Deal legislation at the federal level would create a detailed plan to:

- within a decade, achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;
 - ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States through the creation of millions of good, high-wage jobs
 - invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;
 - secure adequate, essential, natural resources for all people of the United States for generations to come
 - promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of various communities most affected by climate issues. These communities include those socially disadvantaged and those unequipped to bear the burden of climate disasters.
- We would like to see all further discussion of, and as a result of, HB 5002 include these key provisions in accordance with federal legislation.

Whether it be extreme weather, the demolition of low-income coastal towns and cities, or your morning coffee disappearing, climate change has real, serious implications on every aspect of our lives. The Green New Deal establishes the inextricable ties between the health of our climate and that of our nation. The Green New Deal is unique in its attempt to rectify situations of injustice often exacerbated by climate issues, along with its' primary goal of ending carbon emissions and the dependency of our economy on fossil fuels. The Green New Deal is not a radical piece of legislation, but a just and reasonable one. We only ask for what our parents, grandparents, and generations of our ancestors have been afforded before us: the right to a liveable, functioning, environment. Without a healthy climate, we cannot have a healthy community, nation, or human race. For these reasons, we call upon the Energy and Technology Committee to pass HB 5002. Connecticut's acceptance of the Green New Deal would make our state a leader in this historic movement, signaling to local, state, and federal governments across the globe that an ambitious climate proposal like The Green New Deal is exactly what we need to help create new jobs and preserve our planet for future generations